

lowest birth rate was equal to that of France to-day. But the death rate has also fallen—namely, to 10 per thousand—so that the natural increase was nine per thousand, or not so much behind that of most civilized countries. This fact may be commended to the consideration of those who think that the slow rate of increase of the population in France is due to its low birth rate.

This remarkable phenomenon now appears. The increase of the birth rate in Ontario to 25 per thousand has been accompanied, not by a corresponding rise in the natural increase, but by an increase of the death rate to 14 per thousand. So the additional births appear to have populated the graveyard rather than the country. It has been suggested to me by Dr. Stevenson that the increase in the birth and death rates of Ontario may be exaggerated, in that due allowance has not been made by the Canadian authorities for the effect of immigration. But even making the fullest allowance for this, there can be no doubt that both the birth and death rates have risen, and by nearly the same amount.

In the paper of Dr. Drysdale there is ample food for the optimist. In Great Britain, the old centre of the Empire, there is a steady increase of the population due to the births exceeding the deaths. In the younger portions of the Empire this increase is very much greater. This paper will do a good deal to settle opinion for some time to come.

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#### THE GOVERNMENT OF HOSPITALS.

It would be impossible to find in all the range of all the activities of man any set of institutions so variedly governed as are hospitals. Some are managed by the city council as municipal institutions. In some cases there is a composite board of members from the city council, the donors and the government. In some there is a body of trustees elected solely by the donors. In other cases there is a corporation with the right of perpetual succession composed of say five persons, and when one of these dies the remaining four elect another to take his place.

All these plans have given good results. The plan that in most instances has been the least successful is that where the medical staff has a voice in the management. The medical men should keep out of the business side of the work. They should hold themselves aloof from the tangles of making dismissals and additions to the staff. They may very properly act as an advisory body to the governing board, which would in the vast majority of instances be guided by the advice of the staff in matters medical and surgical.

The most remarkable type of management is that to be found in the Montreal General Hospital. From the *Canadian Medical Associa-*